

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PRS-01 SS-15 /026 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

UNCLAS STATE 061285

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PFOR, KS, US

SUBJECT. PRESS GUIDANCE

FOLLOWING GUIDANCE WAS PREPARED FOR USE BY THE SPOKESMAN AT
MARCH 18 NOON PRESS BRIEFING:

QUOTE

QUESTION: WHAT IS THE US REACTION TO THE REPORTED OFFER OF
NORTH KOREA TO IMPROVE RELATIONS ON THE BASIS OF RECIPRO-
CITY?

ANSWER: WE DO NOT HAVE A TEXT OF WHAT YI KI-PAEK (LI KYE
BAEK) REPORTEDLY SAID TO A GROUP OF AMERICAN CORRESPONDENTS
IN TOKYO MARCH 17. WE WOULD OF COURSE BE INTERESTED IN ANY
INDICATION THAT NORTH KOREA WOULD BE WILLING TO COOPERATE
TO REDUCE TENSIONS ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA. AS WE HAVE
INDICATED PREVIOUSLY, THE US IS READY FOR MEETINGS,
INCLUDING BOTH NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA, TO DISCUSS FUTURE
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SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS AND WAYS OF REDUCING TENSIONS ON THE
PENINSULA.

BACKGROUND: YI KI-PAEK IS THE VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE

ASSOCIATION OF KOREAN RESIDENTS IN JAPAN (CHOSEN SOREN OR
CHONGNYON), WHICH SUPPORTS NORTH KOREA. HE MADE A STATE-

MENT SIMILAR TO THIS TO A U.S. NEWSMAN IN TOKYO LAST OCTOBER, NOTING THAT THE NORTH WAS WILLING TO DEVELOP PRIVATE CONTACTS WITH THE U.S. ON A RECIPROCAL BASIS. HE IS OBVIOUSLY NOT AS AUTHORITATIVE A SPOKESMAN AS A MEMBER OF THE PYONGYANG REGIME WOULD BE. ALTHOUGH THE TONE OF YI'S STATEMENT IS SOMEWHAT MORE CONCILIATORY THAN IN THE PAST, THE CALL FOR DIRECT CONTACTS IS NOT NEW. THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT THE NORTH WOULD BE WILLING TO PARTICIPATE IN DISCUSSIONS WHICH INVOLVE THE ROK, AS WE WOULD REQUIRE. UNQUOTE

ONE QUESTION WAS ASKED AND SPOKESMAN REPLIED ALONG LINES OF GUIDANCE PROVIDED. ANOTHER CORRESPONDENT ASKED IF WOODCOCK MISSION TO NORTH VIETNAM WAS GOING TO HAVE CONTACTS WITH NORTH KOREANS ENROUTE HOME FROM VIETNAM. SPOKESMAN REPLIED "ABSOLUTELY NO POSSIBILITY".
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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 19-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
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vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a0975cb5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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